



BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

## A PROCLAMATION

### WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

- WHEREAS: Down syndrome is the most commonly occurring chromosomal abnormality, resulting when a person possesses three rather than the usual two copies of the 21st chromosome. Each year, one in every 691 babies in the United States is born with Down syndrome, representing approximately 6,000 births nationwide and 90 to 100 births in Georgia; and
- WHEREAS: Down syndrome affects individuals of all races and economic levels. More than 400,000 individuals in the U.S. are living with Down syndrome; and
- WHEREAS: Individuals with Down Syndrome should have opportunities to achieve the universally desired goals of self-fulfillment, pride in their achievements, inclusion in their community, and reaching their fullest potentials; and
- WHEREAS: Due to advances in medicine, education, work opportunities, community-based recreation, and social as well as independent living choices, individuals with Down syndrome possess a wide range of abilities and actively participate in society. They hold gainful employment and participate in recreational and faith-based social activities; and
- WHEREAS: As medical care continues to advance, individuals with Down syndrome are living longer and healthier lives as contributing members of their communities; and
- WHEREAS: While research and early intervention have generated outstanding improvements in the life expectancy and quality of life of individuals with Down syndrome, continued efforts in genetic research are needed to improve, correct, or prevent some of the challenges associated with the condition; and
- WHEREAS: On World Down Syndrome Day, advocacy groups and nonprofit organizations work to educate the public about Down syndrome, encourage acceptance, and promote the inclusion of individuals with the condition. We recognize the achievements by individuals with Down syndrome and support their acceptance and inclusion in active community life by promoting awareness and fostering a greater understanding of Down syndrome as well as providing community-based support to affected individuals, their families, friends, health care providers, educators, and advocates; now
- THEREFORE: I, NATHAN DEAL, Governor of the State of Georgia, do hereby proclaim March 21, 2018, as WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY in Georgia.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Executive Department to be affixed this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.



Nathan Deal  
GOVERNOR

ATTEST

Chris W. Riley  
CHIEF OF STAFF